

Identity Theft is on the rise. Identity theft has been described by law enforcement authorities as one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. An identity theft occurs when a criminal acquires key pieces of an individual's identifying information and uses it in fraudulent ways to take over a person's identity.

Often with nothing more than a name and a Social Security number, thieves are able to:

- Open new credit cards in a victim's name and run up charges on the account
- Use counterfeit checks or debit cards to drain bank accounts
- Open new bank accounts and then write bad checks
- Buy cars or property by taking out loans in the victim's name
- Rent apartments and establish services with utilities
- Commit crimes and then use their false identity to mislead law enforcement officials

If your Personal identity has been used (Name, Address, Date of Birth, Phone Number) or your Financial identity has been used (Social Security Number, Bank Account Number, Credit Card Number, Driver's License Number, Loan Number) **YOU** should do the following:

Use of Social Security Number:

Report Incident to the Social Security Administration at
(336) 226-8444 or
(800) 269-0271

Use of Financial Institution Numbers

(Bank Account, Credit Card, Loan Number)
Report the Incident to the Financial Institution involved.

In **BOTH** instances above, **ALSO** contact **EACH** of the following Credit Bureaus:

Equifax	(800) 685-1111
Experian	(888) 397-3742
Transunion	(800) 888-4213

Any Purchases, loans obtained or fraudulent transactions made must be reported to the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which they occurred.

Only you can clear your identity.

Identity Theft Prevention Tips:

Place only your initials and last name and address on your personal checks.

Do not list your phone number and/or your driver's license number on your checks.

Only carry the Credit Card you plan to use that day.

Do not leave your driver's license, Social Security Card or credit cards in your motor vehicle.

Cut up financial documents, old credit cards, old driver's licenses BEFORE you put them in the trash.

When ordering new checks, request they be delivered to your bank and pick them up from there.

Be careful using your financial identity over the Internet.

Check your Financial Statements monthly.

Check your Credit Report every 6 months.

Be cautious of telephone scams. If it seems to good to be true, it probably is!

**Internet Resources:
Governmental Websites**

Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov/pubs/idtheft.htm

Commodity Futures Trading Commission
www.cftc.gov/cftc/cftchome.htm

Consumer.gov
www.consumer.gov/

Computer Crime & Intellectual Property
Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of
Justice
www.cybercrime.gov/

Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbi.gov

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov

Internet Fraud Complaint Center
www.ifccfbi.gov

Securities & Exchange Commission
www.sec.gov

U.S. Customs Service
www.customs.ustreas.gov

U.S. Postal Inspection Service
new.usps.com

U.S. Secret Service
www.treas.gov/uss

U.S. Sentencing Commission
www.ussc.gov

Nongovernmental Websites

American Association of Retired Persons
www.aarp.org/indexes/computers.html

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org/

BBBOnLine
www.bbbonline.org/

Internet Fraud Watch/National Fraud
Information Center
www.fraud.org/

Internet ScamBusters
www.scambusters.org/

National Association of Attorneys General
www.naag.org/

National Association of Securities Dealers
Regulation
www.nasdr.com/

National Consumers League
www.natlconsumersleague.org/

North American Securities Administrators
Association
www.nasaa.org/

SeniorNet
www.seniornet.org/php/default.php

More phone numbers of interest:

Alamance County Sheriff's Office
(336) 570-6300

Alamance County Dept. Of Social Services
(336) 570-6532

Alamance County District Attorney
(336) 438-1015

Alamance County Community College
(336) 578-2002

Burlington Office Social Security
Administration
(336) 226-8444

Burlington Post Office
(336) 227-4293

Do Not Call List
Telephone Preference Service
Direct marketing Association
P.O. Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

Federal Communications Commission
(888) 225-5322

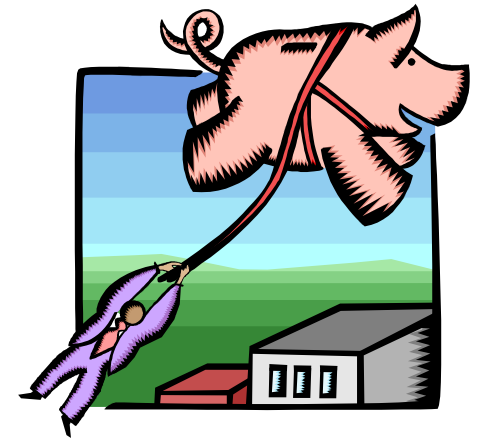
Federal Trade Commission
(877) 382-4357

Internal Revenue Service
Advocate's Office
(800) 829-1040
Tax Fraud Hotline
(800) 829-0433

NC Attorney General
(919) 716-6000

United Way of Alamance County
(336) 438-2000

STOP Identity Theft



Burlington Police Department
267 W. Front St.
Burlington NC 27215
Non-emergency (336) 229-3500
Criminal Investigations (336) 229-3530

